well take an agreement from the contractor. This definitely they refused to do. In the meantime, the season was very far advanced. This is the whole fact.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Did not the Panchayat complain to the Superintendent that the amount allotted was insufficient, that the place selected was rocky, and that the *chira* will not stand.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—One set of people wanted to put up the *chira* somewhere near Varandarappalli close to the tea plantations. That would not serve the purpose of the villagers of Nandipulam, Muppiliam. I inspected the locality with the Village Officers, and found that the *chira* put up in 1099 was in a suitable place. The member under whose supervision the work was carried out also told me that it was the suitable place, whereby the villages of Varandarappalli and Muppiliam would be benefited. There was not the slightest reason to think that the site selected was unsuited for the putting up of the *chira*.

President.—This is only a difference of opinion. The place chosen by you was the most proper one.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The Panchayat reported that the spot was rocky, and that the *chira* would not stand there. Still the *chira* was constructed there, and the contractor went away. He said that the *chira* was illicitly cut open, and for the illicit opening of the *chira* the people have to suffer.

President.—He says that he made enquiries in the matter. The place chosen by him was suited to the people of Nandipulam, Varandarappalli, etc., and so the *chira* was put up there. I do not think any further question can arise there.

Village Panchayats in the Cranganur Taluk.

48. **Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.**—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any Village Panchayats in the Cranganur Taluk;

(2) if not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for it;

(3) will the Government be pleased to state whether it is their intention to organise Village Panchayats in the Cranganur Taluk at an early date?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(1) No.

(2) The question was once considered, but was dropped for the following reasons:—

(i) There was an idea to organise a minor Municipality for Cranganur under the new Municipal Regulation.

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(ii) There was a Road Committee then functioning, or about to function, for all the 5 villages of Cranganur.

(iii) The Muhammadans of Azhikode and Eriyad were then divided into two factions. It was feared that this circumstance would hamper the harmonious working of the Panchayats.

(3) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—May I know when the question was considered?

President.—Are you in a position to say that?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That was four or five years ago.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—May I know the reason for dropping the idea to organise a minor Municipality for Cranganur under the new Municipal Regulation?

President.—I tell you that, for places like Kunnamkulam and Irinjalakkuda, we received certain representations in the matter of constituting a minor Municipality, and they are under consideration.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I want to know whether that idea is given up. The answer implies that it is given up.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—No, Sir.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is no such idea at present.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Is the Government aware that the constitution of the Road Committee has not any power of initiating works, nor is it given any control in the matter of allotments and grant. By the constitution, the Road Committee is not given any powers of initiating works, and is not consulted before allotments are sanctioned for Public Works.

President.—The Committee is empowered to make representations.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The difficulty is this. Under the terms of the constitution, nothing had been said regarding the power of the Committee. The Committee was only asked to submit a report after going into the whole question of improving the communications of the locality. The Report was accordingly submitted, and one or two works were taken up, and those works were entrusted to the Committee. There were only these two precedents. The work entrusted to the Committee was finished years ago, and the Committee is not in existence. The Committee has no voice, and no liberty to say 'yes' or 'no'. I am one of the members of the Committee, and I am in a position to throw more light on the subject.

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President.—Now, after the execution of the works entrusted to them, did the Committee tell the Government that they are ready to take up other works?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The difficulty is this: The Deputy Tahsildar of Cranganur is the *ex-officio* President of the Committee. He would not sanction any proposals unless we show him the powers of our constitution, and the authority under which we can make representations to the Government.

President.—For the constitution of the Committee itself there was some difficulty.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Strictly speaking, there was no Committee. A few members were nominated. That is all.

President.—Without examining the question, you cannot improve it.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—If the Government is not in a position to mend it, it is better to end it, because it is powerless.

President.—If I can take up that matter now, I shall consider it.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I want to know whether the Government is aware whether those factions are now in existence?

President.—Mr. Kunju Muhammad is not here. Otherwise, he would have said something on the subject.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—He would be in a position to know that.

President.—Sometimes these factions arise, and after sometime they end.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Even then, there are three other villages. Those villages are not safe.

The Tiruvilluamala Panchayat Office.

49. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Tiruvilluamala Panchayat Office was removed from a hitherto unrented building to a rented building owned by the father of the President of that Panchayat;

(b) the reasons therefor and the capacity of the Panchayat;

(c) whether they have enquired for a building at a cheaper rent;

(d) whether the present building was rented to anybody else previously, and if so, that rent as well as the present rent;

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